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## **Sen. Van Woerkom secures money for local diabetes program**

**LANSING** — A Muskegon County pilot program that helps local people manage their diabetes won an additional \$25,000 in state funding because of the work of Sen. Gerald Van Woerkom, R-Norton Shores.

Van Woerkom successfully inserted funding for the program in budget legislation for the Michigan Department of Community Health. The Legislature passed the measure, Senate Bill 1083, today.

“Muskegon County has one of the highest rates of diabetes in the state and it disproportionately impacts the African American community,” Van Woerkom said. “This much-needed program will help many people in my district learn to cope with and manage their illness.”

The project would help people focus on their improving their diet, exercising more and seeking proper medical treatment. Muskegon County has one of the highest rates of diabetes in the country. If successful, the county program would save tax dollars because it would help avoid more expensive care.

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